

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HELSIN 01386 052126Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----029870 052128Z /62

O 052002Z MAY 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2672

S E C R E T HELSINKI 1386

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS:

NSC-DR. BRZEZINSKI - IMMEDIATE

ACDA - AMBASSADOR WARNKE - IMMEDIATE

DOD/SECRETARY OF DEFENSE - IMMEDIATE

DOD/JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF - IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW - IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM PCAT US UR

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET CAT: MAY 5 PLENARY

DURING THE COURSE OF THE LONG (ALMOST FOUR HOURS) SECOND PLENARY SESSION, EACH SIDE DESCRIBED THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GOVERN ITS ARMS TRANSFERS. SOVIETS DESCRIBED THREE CRITERIA WHICH ALLOW A TRANSFER TO BE MADE, AND FIVE WHICH WOULD MAKE A TRANSFER ILLEGITIMATE. ALL EIGHT ARE DERIVED FROM UN DOCUMENTS. US DESCRIBED PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN RELEVANT STATUTES. SOVIET POINT WAS THAT THEIR PRINCIPLES CONSTITUTE A UNIVERSAL STANDARD WHICH CAN (AND MUST) APPLY EQUALLY TO EVERY REGION. ON THE OTHER HAND, US ARGUED THE NECESSITY FOR A PRAGMATIC APPROACH, ADDRESSING SPECIFIC REGIONS. SOVIETS FINALLY AGREED THAT NEITHER APPROACH WAS SUPERIOR TO THE OTHER, AND THAT OUR CHIEF TASK WAS TO FIND THE PROPER WAY TO COMBINE THEM, WHILE GELB ARGUED THAT THE REGIONAL APPROACH IS THE NECESSARY

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VEHICLE FOR ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTING THE RELEVANT PRINCIPLES. THERE WAS SOME BACKSLIDING IN TONE OF SOVIET PRESENTATION TODAY, AND SEVERAL FALSE SCENTS WERE INTRODUCED TO THROW THE DISCUSSION OFF TRACK. ALSO, THE QUESTION WAS AGAIN RAISED OF WHETHER AN "OBJECTIVE BASIS" YET EXISTS TO MOVE FROM CONSULTATIONS TO NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEXT ROUND. HOWEVER,

AFTER A VERY TOUGH REJOINDER FROM GELB, WHICH  
FRANKLY POINTED OUT FLAWS AND PHONY ARGUMENTS,  
MENDELEVICH APPARENTLY RECONSIDERED, AND RETURNED TO  
SERIOUS AND MORE POSITIVE APPROACH.

FULL REPORT FOLLOWS.  
RIDGWAY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, SALES, POLICIES, MEETING REPORTS, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B  
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**Draft Date:** 05 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DEPART PASS: NSC-DR BRZEZINSKI, ACDA-AMB WARNKE, DOD/SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, DOD/JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014